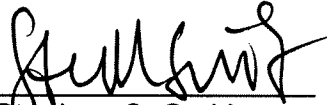


**REMARKS**

Claims 1-9 and 22-24 are pending. Claims 22-24 are cancelled. A notice of appeal and a Pre Appeal Conference Request Brief were filed for this application on January 18, 2007. The UPSTO mailed a Pre Appeal Conference decision on April 13, 2007, which sent this application to the BPAI for review. An appeal brief has not yet been filed in this application. This Amendment should be entered because it reduces the number of issues for appeal. See 37 C.F.R. § 41.33; MPEP § 1206. If, for any reason, the Examiner needs to reach the undersigned attorney, I can be reached at (312) 222-8124.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen C. Smith', written over a horizontal line.

Stephen C. Smith  
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Attorney for Applicants

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